



Pathways Weekly Reading & Prayer Guide

Week 10: Prayers of the Early Church

April 16-22 • Dr. Paul Suich

In the Book of Acts, Luke records 14 separate instances, using 20 instances of the verb or noun, pray. We can learn a lot about what the early disciples learned from Jesus about prayer.

Day 1: Consecration for Service

- 1:24-25 Replacing Judas
- 6:1-6 Seven Chosen to Serve
- 13:1-3 Barnabas and Paul Commissioned to Service

How are you serving Jesus? Whom do you serve? What acts of service do you do for God? What did the disciples pray for in these passages?

Pray for God to give you a sense of calling in your present service.

Day 2: Boldness Amidst Persecution

- 4:23-31 The Believers Pray for Boldness
- 12:12-16 Peter's Release from Prison
- 16:25-26 The Philippian Jail
- 22:17-21 Paul's Defense under Arrest in Jerusalem

Where do you find challenges to your expression of faith? When might you be more bold in loving one particular person in your sphere of influence?

Pray to God for boldness amidst your circumstances.

Day 3: A Great God for Great Needs

- 9:39-40 Dorcas Restored to life
- 27:29 Praying in a Storm
- 28:7-10 Praying for the Sick on Malta

We often pray for the sick, but we also shy away from praying for healing for fear that we will be disappointed. As you read these passages, what strikes you about the way that these early disciples prayed?

Some diseases are undeniable and easily seen like accidents, cancer, and strokes. Other diseases are much harder to see like depression and substance abuse.

Pray for the “quiet” diseases such as depression, anxiety, and addictions.

Day 4: The Normal Christian Life

- 10:9; 11:5 Peter's Vision

It is clear that Peter, as a disciple of Jesus, had developed a routine habit of prayer. This prayer led to spectacular results, but most days were normal prayers. What stands in the way of having a routine habit of praying to God?

Pray that God will draw you into a more regular conversation.

Day 5: Consecration of Deep Emotions

- 20:36-38 Bidding Farewell to the Ephesian Elders
- 21:4-6 Bidding Farewell to the Church at Tyre

Paul developed intimate associations with the elders in the churches. Apparently, he had a habit of praying as he ended a time of fellowship/relationship. What would you have prayed for if you had been at one of these gatherings?

Periodically we gather at funerals, at retirement parties, and when “Winter visitors” return to their homes.

Pray for the grace and wisdom to be ready to pray with others at a time of departure.

Day 6: The Prayer of Repentance

- 8:14-25 Simon of Samaria

Clearly, there is a profound contrast between Peter and John's desire to see a community filled with the Holy Spirit, and Simon of Samaria's desire to be a powerful man who would be admired and sought after for his abilities. We run the risk today of participating in Church to be known as competent or powerful rather than seeking to be a disciple of Jesus, serving others, and seeing to the needs of the poor. What particular issue needs restoration in your life?

Pray to the Lord that the intent of our hearts may be forgiven and purified.

Wisdom from Others
Book Suggested Readings
Too Busy Not To Pray (Hybels) - Chapter 15
A Praying Life (Miller) - Chapters 26-27
Prayer (Yancey) - Chapters 19-20